

Special Centennial
and Home Coming
Week Edition

BIG SANDY NEWS

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Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam

LOUISA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1922.

M. F. CONLEY and E. K. SPENCER, Publishers

BRIEF REVIEW
OF OUR PROGRESS

The population of Louisa has doubled in twelve years, which is a better record than a majority of cities in the country have made. The prospects for further growth were never as good as at present. Paving the streets have given an impetus that promises to carry along to much greater things.

Reviewing for a few years we find amongst notable improvements natural gas piped into town for general use in 1920.

Water works and sewerage system installed in 1904 by W. B. Cox, who died recently.

The bridge connecting Louisa with the Point and with Fort Gay built in 1905. (The stock was difficult to sell and the directors borrowed the last \$10,000 needed to complete it.)

Riverview hospital was built in 1906 and the need of it has been proved by the large patronage it has received.

The next great improvement was the paving of the streets, started in 1920 and completed in 1921. Kentucky rock asphalt was used and a more beautifully paved little city is not to be found anywhere. Our wide streets are very attractive and we no longer have mudholes and dust to contend with. Who would go back to the old mud and dust streets?

New residences and business houses have been built all along through the intervening period until the old town now stands transformed. Only a few of the old landmarks remain.

The county of Lawrence has made progress also. Some improvement in roads has come, and one great step along this line is now within sight of consummation. That is the Mayo Trail. The grading from Louisa to the Floyd county line is almost completed and the contract will be let soon for another section of this road from Louisa to Paintsville. When completed it will be maintained by the State.

In agriculture and live stock there has been marked progress. The county has employed agricultural experts. Better homes have been built. Automobiles are plentiful, and the people are living better.

Sporadic explorations in Lawrence county for oil have been made since 1865, but the real development started in 1910, when here oil was found three miles south of Louisa. Since that time hundreds of wells have been drilled, with very few dry holes. This is now our chief industry.

Dr. W. B. McClure Visits
the Old Home Town

Another Louisa man who has made a notable success and is here for the home coming is Dr. W. B. McClure. He is known throughout the State as an eminent specialist in diseases of the eye, nose and throat. He located in Lexington many years ago. No one is enjoying this home coming more than he.



MRS. F. T. D. WALLACE.

We are pleased to be able to print a picture of the good woman whose name heads this sketch. While not a native of Louisa this is not her fault, as she could not choose her place of birth. We are sure she would have done so if possible. Louisa claims Mrs. Wallace as her own just the same. Her useful life has been spent here in doing good. She was born and reared at Hartford, New York, and came here in early womanhood to visit her sister, Mrs. J. H. Northrup. Of course there was no chance for her to get away from Louisa—and she is here yet.

Mrs. Wallace has been active in church work through all her life. She has one record that is seldom equalled. For 50 years she has been a teacher continuously in the same Sunday school, that of the Louisa M. E. Church South. Also, for nearly 40 years she was organist for the church and Sunday school. Mrs. Wallace was president of the Woman's Missionary Society for many years, but was relieved at her own request some time ago.

Louisa has no more highly prized citizen than Mrs. Wallace.

GIVE US THE NAMES.

It is impossible to get the names of all who were here this week and we could have the names of any who were omitted from this issue in time for publication next week. Please telephone or bring them in.



F. T. D. WALLACE.

Mr. F. T. D. Wallace is, so far as we can learn, the oldest person now living in Louisa who was born here and has lived in Louisa continuously; and he isn't so "awfully" old, either. If he would dye his hair, like a lot of others do, he might have a lot of guessers under-shooting the mark as to his age.

He is a grandson of Frederick Moore and a son of Thos. Wallace, both leaders in the earlier history of this county. He is a lawyer and for more than 30 years has given all his time to the service of the Chesapeake & Ohio railway as attorney. His office is in Ashland and he makes the round trip daily between Louisa and that place.

Mr. Wallace is one of Louisa's loyal and substantial citizens, always standing for the best in civic and social affairs. He served one term as State Senator, the only political position he ever sought.

No one enjoys more than he the mingling with all who return to Lawrence county's home coming.

HOW STATE LINE
WAS ESTABLISHED

There is an interesting story about how Kentucky gained all the territory between the Levisa and Tug river forks of the Big Sandy river, including a part of Lawrence, all of Martin, part of Floyd and Johnson, and the greater portion of Pike counties.

Kentucky was originally one county in the State of Virginia. When it was made a State the boundary line was given as the Big Sandy river. Later the question arose as to which of the two forks, from Louisa up, was the main stream. The two states appointed commissioners to meet at Louisa and decide. On the day they met here the Tug fork was rising rapidly as the result of heavy rains at the headwaters of the two forks, but the Levisa fork had not yet begun to rise. Tug is a steeper stream and headwater tides almost reach Louisa in that fork ahead of Levisa.

The commissioners got the idea that Tug was the main stream and established the state line accordingly.

Leo Frank Made Longest
Trip to Louisa for Week

Mr. Leo Frank was one of the earliest arrivals for the Home Coming. He reached here last Saturday from his home at Jeanerette, Louisiana, and will stay through the week's celebration. He was a resident of Louisa for many years and was one of our most prominent and progressive citizens during all that time. He was a merchant, and also was postmaster for twelve years, one of the most efficient and accommodating officials the town ever had. He sold out in 1887 and located at Jeanerette, where he has prospered and taken high position as a business man. His daughter, Inez, lives there also, and the many old Louisa friends regret that she did not come for this occasion. It has been several years since either Mr. Frank or the daughter was here.

It has been 15 years since his last visit, and he has come farther than anyone else for this home coming occasion.

Vanceburg Sun Praises
Louisa and the News

Louisa, Ky., will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its existence as a city next week. All the residents are preparing to welcome former residents to a week's celebration of this noted event. We were in their little city last week and can bear witness to their up-to-date-ness. They have new streets, sewerage and water system, splendid homes with well-kept lawns, substantial business concerns whose places of business reflect their belief in the future of their city. All in all, they are much alive and this activity is reflected in no small degree by the Big Sandy News, one of the best weeklies in the State and which has captured the first premium of the State Press Association several times as such. The paper is the product of M. F. Conley and E. K. Spencer, who make an ideal combination of editor and printer.—Vanceburg Sun.

JAMES C. LANE, 88.

Mr. James C. Lane of Covington, is here enjoying the Home Coming. He is 88 years old. For many years he was a merchant in Louisa. He is father of Dr. P. C. Layne of Ashland and J. C. Layne, Jr., of Fort Thomas, Ky.

EARLY HISTORY OF
LAWRENCE COUNTYInteresting Records from the Clerk's Office. Also, Facts
About the First Settlement of Big Sandy.

In 1822 Lawrence county was formed by uniting territory taken from Floyd and Greenup counties. A court was immediately established, a county seat located and named, school district divisions made, jail erected, etc. From the records in the county clerk's office we get the following information:

Lawrence County Court Formed.

"Be it remembered that at the house of Andrew Johnson on Monday the 25 day of March, 1822, Edward Burgess, Nimrod Canterbury, Lewis Wellman, James Wheeler, John Haws, Thomas Thompson, John Stafford and Isaac Bolt, commissioners from under the hand of John Adair, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the time being, with the seal of the commonwealth thereto affixed appointing Edward Burgess, Nimrod Canterbury, Lewis Wellman, James Wheeler, John Haws, Thomas Thompson, John Stafford and Isaac Bolt, Justices of the Peace in and for the county of Lawrence and thereupon the said Edward Burgess the first numbered in said commissions before Nimrod Canterbury the second numbered, did on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God took as well the oath to support the constitution of the United States and of this state—as the oath of Justice of the Peace—each with the oath prescribed by the act of assembly entitled—an act more effectually to suppress the practice of duelling. Then Edward Burgess administered oath to others named. Thereupon a court was formed and held at the house of Andrew Johnson in the 30th year of Kentucky."

County Seat Established.

The court then proceeded to locate a county seat and after a thorough investigation, considering the most accessible location, imperative to be on the river as it was the best means of transportation, decided upon the west side of Sandy river immediately above the forks and the name of the town to be Louisa. The public square was located so that a line run from the Louvisco (now spelled Levisa) fork of Sandy river west 150 feet above the stable occupied by Andrew J. Chapman would pass through the middle of the public square. The court or commissioners were allowed the liberty of giving the public square such figures as they saw fit and to locate the court house where they thought best.

First Officers.

William Graves was appointed first sheriff of Lawrence county and gave bond for \$3000. His bondsmen were Henry Burgess, Edward Burgess, Henry B. Mayo, Samuel May and Joseph R. Ward. (The sheriff today is placed under a \$100,000 bond.) Stephen Graves and Elisha McComas were appointed deputy sheriffs.

Joseph R. Ward was appointed clerk and placed under a 1000 pound bond. His bondsmen were Alexander Lackey, Robert Walker, John Rice and William Graves. (The present clerk's bond is \$15,000.)

The first attorneys admitted to the bar in the county were Thompson Ward, Robt. Walker, Wm. Triplett and Samuel Seaton, the first named appointed prosecuting attorney.

John Haws and Reuben Canterbury, Jr., were recommended as county surveyors.

Benjamin Canterbury and Andrew J. Chapman were recommended as coroner to fill the place of Hiram Chadwick, who was recommended by the Governor but refused to qualify.

Lewis Reugsberry was appointed jailer and his bond fixed at \$1000.

The outlining of some roads for the county was then decided upon the surveyors appointed for them, the principle roads being from Louisa through the mouth of Georges creek to the county line toward Prestonsburg, and from the head of Hoods fork on Blaine by way of the ridge between Blaine and Little Sandy to the Greenup county line. The following were appointed surveyors of roads to various points:

Isaac Chapman, Michael Borders, Gilbert Barnett, Jas. Walker, Henry Ball, John Lester, James Rucker.

Jeremiah Wellman appointed commissioner of Revenue for year 1822 in all Lawrence county which formerly belonged to Floyd county.

Edward Burgess and Lewis Wellman appointed judges of election at Georges creek precinct.

Jas. Wheeler and John Haws at Blaine.

Simon Auxier exempted from paying county levies and working on roads in future.

John Haws and Isaac Bolt appointed to divide county into constable districts.

W. W. Bocoock appointed constable in district one.

Andrew Kitchen appointed constable in district two.

Jas. Marcum appointed constable in district three.

Wm. Walters appointed constable in district four.

Robt. Miller appointed constable in district five.

Frederick Moore was granted the right to operate a ferry below the forks of the river, he owning the land on this side. The court fixed the ferry rate at 12½¢ for man and horse. The

ferry boat should be 30 feet long and 12 feet wide and have two men to attend it.

The county was then divided into school districts, nine in all. (This is quite a contrast to the districts of the present day, there now being 100 districts beside two graded schools, high schools and colored schools.)

School district No. 1 began at mouth of Whites creek on Big Sandy and up creek with county line to dividing ridge between the waters of East Fork and Big Sandy along the ridge to the head of Bear creek and down Bear creek to its mouth.

The privilege of keeping a tavern in their homes was granted to Andrew Johnson and Lewis Reugsberry and the following prices fixed upon their wares:

For good whiskey or brandy 12½¢ per half pint.

For lodging per night 12½¢.

For stable with rough food 25¢.

For oats or corn per gallon, 12½¢.

For pasturage 24 hours 12½¢.

It was then found necessary to build a jail, the plans of which were to be made by the court. Those finally decided upon provided that the jail be two stories high and eleven feet square, built of good strong "hune" timbers, the logs to be ten inches thick and twelve feet long. The lower story was to be made of double timber and left one foot apart, and that space to be filled with stone. The floor was to be of good oak sills, the same size as the walls, with the timbers shouldered and pinned to the sills with two inch pins. The upper story was to be of single timber with the floor similar to that of the lower story except that it was to have a trap door three feet square, made of three inch oak plank and hung with strong iron hinges. The roof was to be the same as the first floor, with joint shingles, and had to be extended six feet beyond the wall at the end where the upper door was out. Stairs on the outside were to run up to the platform at the door in the upper story. Also there were to be enough windows, 9 inches square with iron grates, to provide ample light for those inside. "And it is ordered that the said commissioners attend to the letting and building of said jail as soon as practicable and that the said community give the undertaker till next November court to complete same, and that said undertaker be paid one-half the price thereof out of the levy from Floyd and Greenup counties as soon as same is collected."

And thus it was that the county of Lawrence was formed and first began its duties as a county one hundred years ago. The undertaker was what we now call the contractor.

Additional Early History.

As early as 1789 emigrants began to come to the Big Sandy to settle, and it was in that year that the first settlement made at the forks of Sandy Indians, were plentiful and hostile and the early settlers made forts by building their houses near each other in the form of a square and connecting them with high fences. The Indians were driven out in a few years, but it cost many lives of white people to do this.

The Harmons, Auxiers and Damons built blockhouses at the mouth of Johns Creek and near Pikeville. Near Salsersville also was a white fortification.

In 1789, the year that a settlement was attempted on the point opposite Louisa, the Leslies settled at Pond Creek in Pike county, but were driven off by Indians. In 1791 they returned and established themselves on Johns Creek, this being the first permanent settlement in the valley. Then came the Mayos, Lackeys, Laynes, Hagars, Millards, Prestons, Hatchers, Borders, etc.

One hundred years ago the people lived on bear meat, venison, wild turkey, and other game; wild honey, corn meal ground on hand mills or grated, bear-fat was largely used instead of lard, maple sugar and syrup was plentiful. Hog meat and beef came later, with flour and coffee.

It is a well established fact that George Washington made a survey through here and a tree that he marked stood on the Johns place just south of Louisa until a few years ago. The Kentucky Historical Society has a record of it. The survey was made in 1766. In his field notes Washington mentioned a burning spring bubbling up out of the water at Warfield.

The Name Louisa.

In Wm. E. Connelley's book "The Founding of Harmon's Station" we find the statement that "the Louisa River was named by Dr. Thomas Walker June 7, 1759. In the early days of the settlement of the Big Sandy valley this stream was known altogether as the Louisa River. Afterward the name was corrupted to Levisa."

It appears that the name Louisa, one attached to the whole State of Kentucky, Dr. Walker gave the Big Sandy the name Louisa in honor of Louisa, the wife of the Duke of Cumberland, it is said. Louisa is a good old English name, coming down from a more ancient people, and was in great favor with our ancestors."

The proper pronunciation is Lou-e-zah. There should be a penalty for calling it Lou-i-zay.



MAJOR D. J. BURCHETT.

Major D. J. Burchett is always a welcome visitor to his old home town of Louisa, but never more so than upon this gala occasion, in which he has a part on the program.

Coming out of the Civil war a major at a very early age for this rank, he engaged in business at Louisa and was successful. Also, he took an interest in politics and was honored by his party several times. He represented Lawrence and Boyd counties twice in the Legislature. He was postmaster at Louisa for a term and was appointed United States Marshal for the entire State of Kentucky by President Harrison in 1889, making an excellent record. Then he resumed a business career and soon after moved to Mt. Sterling, Ky., where he is now the active president of a large bank. He has operated a fine bluegrass farm nearly all the time he has been in Mt. Sterling.

Major Burchett is the father of Mrs. G. R. Vinson, Mrs. J. F. Ratcliff, Mrs. Addie Burchett, John C. Burchett and D. J. Burchett, Jr.

COL. W. O. JOHNSON
CABLES REGRETS

On last Saturday Col. Wm. O. Johnson sent the following cable:

Balboa, August 25.

Milt Conley,
Louisa, Lawrence Co., Ky.
Absent without leave. Repentant.
Louisa forever!

W. O. Johnson.

The message is characteristic. We have no doubt that he very deeply regrets being unable to be present. He most assuredly "absent without leave" from this home coming affair.

No excuse would have secured a "leave" if it had to come from this end of the line.

He is the first person who suggested a home coming for Louisa. This was done in conversation with the writer three or four years ago and he expressed a strong desire to attend.

He is now in command of certain United States affairs in the Panama Canal zone. Either he could not get a leave of absence just at this time or the notice of the home coming did not reach him early enough.

Will Johnson is one of the ablest men intellectually ever produced here. He is the oldest son of the late George F. Johnson, who for 14 years was county clerk of Lawrence county.

On account of his well known ability he was given an appointment to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point by Major Burchett, who had the naming of a cadet from this Congressional district about 1887. Since his graduation he twice has been assigned to West Point as an instructor. He is now a Colonel in the army.

A History of Lawrence
County Newspapers

Louisa's first newspaper was the Chattahoochee News, started by Joe H. Borders of Paintsville about 1880. After less than two years Mr. Borders decided to go to Kansas and the paper was suspended.

Next came the Lawrence County Index, which began its career in 1883.

Prof. H. T. Lytleton, then teaching a private school here, joined with Tom Dickenson, a printer, in establishing the Index. Later W. O. Johnson, now a Colonel in the U. S. army, bought Dickenson's interest.

Just 37 years ago this week the Index was sold to L. Boyd Ferguson and M. F. Conley, and the name was changed to the Big Sandy News. This partnership continued 18 months, when Conley bought Mr. Ferguson's interest. Not one time has the paper failed to make its regular weekly appearance. Modern machinery was gradually acquired until a first class plant was built up. In 1913 and in 1922, the only times that the Kentucky Press Association has offered prizes to the best newspaper in the State, the Big Sandy News has been awarded first prize.

In 1913 Ed K. Spencer became a partner in the NEWS. He had been connected with the paper for many years.

Within the last 37 years papers have been started here under the following names: Enterprise, Banner, Advocate, Journal, Commercial, Chronicle, Advertiser, Times, Leader, Picket, Courier, Herald, Recorder, and perhaps another one or two. Some of these papers changed hands two or three times.

LOUISA NAMED
FOR LOUISA WARD

Louisa was named for Louisa Ward, the first white child born where the town is located. She grew to womanhood and married a Hampton at Catlettsburg.

Frederick Moore owned most of the land now occupied by the city of Louisa. He had come into this locality from Philadelphia in 1815, bringing a stock of merchandising with him. In addition to the land on which Louisa sits he bought a large boundary across the river where Fort Gay is located and the large bottom now known as the Hammond land. After three years of prosperity as a merchant and trader he sent to Philadelphia for his wife and two small children. Mrs. Moore was a Miss Vanhorn and they established their home on the land mentioned above as the Hammond land. He lived to be 92 years old, dying in 1874.

The wide streets in Louisa and the symmetrical plan of the town is said to have been the work of Frederick Moore.

A number of his descendants have been leaders and others are prominent today. Col. Laban T. Moore was a distinguished son. Col. Sam Savage was a grandson of ability. F. T. D. Wallace and G. E. Gallup are prominent grandsons yet living. Rev. Dr. F. P. Shannon, a great-grandson, has attained a place of eminence in the United States, being one of the most prominent preachers in the United States. There are others who should be mentioned in this connection.

Mr. B. F. Thomas Writes
His Sentiments of Louisa

The committee asked Mr. B. F. Thomas, of the United States engineer service, to make a response to the address of welcome. He sent a letter expressing deep regret over not being able to be present the first day. He follows this with a tribute that we think is well worth publishing:

"I went to Louisa 43 years ago and remained then, except for short intervals for 28 years, and have never voted anywhere else, even to this day. I love the town, its people, its social life, its friendly disposition, its business and educational activities, and its old-fashioned stand for Christianity, and good morals and would be well content to spend my remaining days among its good citizens if I had congenial employment for my mind and body. My closest and most loyal friends live there and when the time comes for me to lay life's burdens down I expect to take my final rest on top of the mountain overlooking that beautiful little gem—Louisa."

I again thank you, and all associated with you, for the invitation to speak, which is all the more appreciated when I remember that I am not one of Kentucky's native sons.

Sincerely,
B. F. THOMAS.

REV. F. F. SHANNON.

Lawrence county has furnished to the world one of America's most distinguished preachers and lecturers. He has been pastor of two strong Brooklyn churches, and was next called to Chicago where he is pastor of Central church, one of the largest congregations in the city.

Mr. Shannon has published several books which have large sales. He lectures quite often in various parts of the country. Lawrence county regrets very much that he can not attend the Home Coming. Previous engagements prevent.

He is perhaps the most widely known of the Louisa citizens who have gone out into the world.

PICTURES OF CITIZENS.

The NEWS is glad to produce in its columns this week the pictures of several citizens, without their knowledge or consent. There are several other persons whose pictures we would have procured if we had begun this feature in time. Having the cuts made requires several days, and getting suitable photographs surreptitiously is sometimes difficult.

LONG DISTANCE VISITORS.

Clyde M. Meek is here from California. We have not learned whether or not he came for the home coming occasion. If so he came earlier than Leo Frank. John Chapman, also, came from Florida in a Ford.



REV. F. F. SHANNON.